CONVENTION NOTES

Members of MPO “Fatherland” are adding their special touches, as only Detroit can, to make this a memorable convention. Come CELEBRATE and have a good time!

FRIDAY EVENTS

Auto Caravan to Downtown Detroit
Meet in the lobby and experience downtown Detroit. Ride on the People Mover to Hart Plaza for the Jazz Festival or take a stroll on the River Walk. Try your luck at the casinos, eat at the ethnic restaurants and shop until you drop.

VESELBA with Oros
Back by popular demand the trio Veselba (“merriment in Bulgarian”) returns to entertain us with oros and your favorite Macedonian songs.

ALSO AT THE DANCE:

Kids Corner
Color and cut out Macedonian Dancers.

Baby Photo Contest
Send us your baby photos, be the best guesser and win a prize! Scan and E-mail them to mtfw@macedonian.org [preferred] or snail-mail them to the MPO office. Write name/address on the back. Deadline: August 1st.

11th annual MPO Zelnick Contest
Bring your favorite Zelnick for judging and sharing. You may take home the trophy! The hotel staff will refrigerate and bake them. Mark your name on the pan with something that can be refrigerated and baked (no tape).

Silent Auctions
Make a bid on your favorite treasures at the three dances. Donated items are welcome and encouraged.

SATURDAY EVENTS

Zelnick Workshop
Back by popular demand! Entertainer Angie Panzoff and daughters Barb and Gloria demonstrate the zen of zelnick baking.

YMPO Gathering
Calling all YMPO members young and old - Learn a Macedonian card game, get together and play euchre and compete in games you have to complete in “A Minute to Win It!”

POST-SATURDAY AND SUNDAY NIGHT DANCE FUN

Get together and hang-out. Plenty of pizza and soda for adults and youth.

Nostalgic Song Fests
Sponsored by Leonard Plodzien, lend your voice or just listen to harmonies of a time long ago.

SUNDAY EVENTS

Sunday Motorcade and Picnic
Decorate your vehicle for the motorcade to Sunday’s picnic at Ford Field Park in Dearborn. Picnic while the Detroiter grill kebobs and hotdogs for sale. Drinks and other Macedonian goodies will be available too. Dance to Chris Bajmakovich the one-man band from Chicago, a perfect venue for families.

The President’s Champagne Reception
Meet The Grand Banquet Speaker Bill Tosheff and honorary guest Consul General of the Republic of Macedonia Igor Dukoski and Popadia Vera Nicoloff.

The Grand Banquet
Join us as we pay tribute to Vanya Daicov Dumas. Nine-year-olds Zoe McLeroy and Lexi DeSantis will entertain us with their rendition of “Chervenata ti Vrazka” for a nostalgic trip down memory lane.

Bill Tosheff to address 89th Annual MPO Convention

Former NBA star William M. Tosheff will give a Macedonian twist to his experiences as a professional athlete in two sports at The Grand Banquet of this year’s MPO Convention.

His zany style will capture the hearts of Macedonians of all ages in his talk – “Yes, I did it all.” Bill has been writing articles for the MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE for the past three years. Most feature athletic themes.

Bill is much more than a professional athlete, he is a man with a heart whether it is reaching out to young Macedonians entering pro-athletics (in particular Kevin Kouzmanoff, third baseman for the Oakland A’s, and Corey Elkins of the NHL Los Angeles franchise) or rearing four children as a single dad.

When he was a student at Indiana University, Bill lettered in three sports. He was a pitcher for the only IU Big Ten Baseball Championship team in 1951 ranking fifth in the nation. He also was named to the All Big Ten Basketball Conference team and was chosen as All-American in basketball by several media groups.

Bill’s accomplishments in pro-basketball transcend his playing days. While taking a cab ride in Los Angeles, he learned the cabby was former NBA (National Basketball Association) player the late Sweetwater Clifton. A light went on in Bill’s mind. He started a non-profit organization to work for retirement benefits for pre-1965 NBA players. For NBA players who played before HUGE mega-million salaries. He has helped them or their widows collect more than six million dollars in retirement benefits.

For this the NBA honored him during All-Star weekend in February 2009. And, this project is now being emulated by retirees of the NFL (National Football League) for their forerunners in need.

But, Bill would not allow the NBA to honor him, unless other old-timers and their family were included too. The NBA agreed and they all decended on Phoenix for a great reunion weekend. It was here that Bill once again met Oscar Robertson, who as a 12-year-old asked to carry Bill’s gym bag after a game in Indianapolis.

Bill’s second professional sports career was in baseball.

All indications are this will be a lively MPO Convention Grand Banquet.